

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 3, 2023

YORK,ss

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, A. D. at 5:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Justin Chenette
Donna Ring

County Manager Gregory Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the meeting.

YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

05-03-2023 ITEM

- 1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
None

- 2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
 - a. Commissioners' regular meeting of April 12, 2023
Commissioner Clark made corrections and then moved to approve the minutes. with corrections. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- 3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
 - a. Warrants to be approved on April 12, 2023 in the amount of \$610,891.33
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
 - b. Warrants to be approved on April 19, 2023 in the amount of \$452,435.19
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
 - c. Warrants to be approved on April 26, 2023 in the amount of \$408,690.50
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- 4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Dutremble informed all that the convention (of counties) has been approved by the Maine County Commissioners' Association in September at Poland Springs Resort.

5 NEW BUSINESS

- a. Introduce Bill Southwick from York County Habitat for Humanity
Chairperson Commissioner Dutremble introduced Bill Southwick. Mr. Southwick thanked the Board for inviting them and introduced Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Amy Nucci distributed a flyer (attached as part of the record of minutes) with information regarding Habitat for Humanity York County. Executive Director Amy Nucci explained that homeowners do work alongside them. We sell the homes to the people through an affordable mortgage. Executive Director Nucci informed all that they also run an aging in place and weatherization program for low-income households. They also run the Kennebunk Re-Store with proceeds going back into program. Executive Director Nucci stated that there is an affordable housing crisis and that the median home price has increased by 33%. Therefore, we have had a goal of two homes a year, but our goal is to double the number this year. We are working with the city of Sanford with a land bank initiative. Ms. Nucci added that the City of Saco has donated land. We know we need to continue to grow strategic partnerships.

Commissioner Chenette asked Director Amy Nucci if in regard to the Aging in Place section if they partner with any AARP or Age Friendly Saco organizations? Executive Director Nucci responded that they have a wonderful partnership with Age Friendly Saco. She added that they are looking to add a staff position to support our Aging in Place section.

Commissioner Chenette asked if the county had partnered with Habitat for Humanity at all in the past or is this something we could be looking at? Executive Director Amy Nucci replied that this is a brand-new opportunity, and we are open to any ideas.

Commissioner Dutremble added that no one has ever approached us, so he invited Bill Southwick to come and present information.

- b. H.R. Director Linda Corliss to seek approval of the following new hires/transfers:
 - i. Caleb Thill in the position of part-time to full time Maintenance Technician I in the Facilities Department with a date of hire of May 15, 2023
H.R. Director Corliss explained that Caleb will start as a part-time employee and then move into full-time due to scheduling issues. She added that they he will be trained with some of our staff before they go on vacation.
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Caleb Thill in the position of a part time to full time Maintenance Technician I in the Facilities department. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
DISCUSSION- Commissioner Ring asked if he was being hired at entry level pay. H.R. Director Corliss replied, yes, \$16.92 per hour plus the MSEA \$500 sign on bonus after six months completion of employment.
Vote 5-0.
 - ii. James Foote in the position of full time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a starting date of April 28, 2023.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of James Foote in the position of full time Corrections Officer with a starting date of April 28, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION- Commissioner Ring asked if he has already started employment? H.R. Director Corliss, yes, and that he is at the MCJA as of Monday.

Commissioner Clark asked where does this put us? H.R. Director Corliss replied that there are 40 full-time corrections officers, 10 supervisors and 34 reserves. She added that there are three in the academy and 2 individuals close to hiring.

County Manager Zinser added that there have been no declared State of Emergency's since early December.

Commissioner Clark congratulated H.R. Director Corliss on her success in hiring.

Vote 5-0.

- c. Budget Committee meeting(s) update – County Manager Zinser informed all that the date of Monday, May 22nd beginning at 3:00 p.m. had been decided upon. The County Manager added that he is hopeful that the Budget Committee will gather and complete the process all on this day. There are only seven members, and we are hoping that they can all attend.

County Manager Zinser commented that maybe it is time the Board started to think about the establishment of a Charter. Interest in budget committee membership has been decreasing over the years.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that they tried it once and it is time to try again.

The County Manager informed the Board that yesterday we were informed of another tax abatement appeal out of Berwick. We would like to schedule this for the first week in June. Is the Board okay with this (date)? The Board is agreeable to this date.

Commissioner Chenette asked County Manager Zinser if at the budget meeting they will determine the date for the Public Hearing?

County Manager Zinser replied, yes, at the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Chenette replied that hopefully it's not in the middle of the afternoon. Our constituents would love to be there.

Commissioner Ring asked what are the major differences with us having a charter?

County Manager Zinser responded that he is not prepared to talk about it as he hasn't researched it a lot yet.

Commissioner Chenette stated that he had a follow up question regarding the Budget Committee. He wondered if there is a need or desire to have the Budget Committee Chairperson come before us to talk through adequate communications, etc. Perhaps discuss what their strategy is as he is not seeing the strategies. "We represent thousands of constituents", continued Commissioner Chenette. "What can we do to use our roles and social media platforms with the understanding there needs to be a separation?"

6 OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on D.A.'s office move- County Manager Zinser thanked Facilities Manager Rick deRochemont and his crew for the immense amount of work that has gone on and continues to go on in moving the District Attorney's office. It was a tremendous undertaking including the logistics for planning the move. Facilities Manager Rick deRochemont addressed the Board and reported that everybody is in the new location and able to do their jobs. Overall, he continued, the move went off without a lot of issues. Everything went better than expected. The moving company did a great job. Manager deRochemont stated that there was a late night after they dropped everything at the doorstep. Now to clean out the old buildings with stuff they didn't need or want. He explained that the Biddeford Office is emptied out and turned over to the State. The York office is basically done, and Springvale still needs to be completed, reported Facilities Manager deRochemont.

Commissioners thanked Facilities Manager deRochemont for his hard work.

County Manager Zinser stated that we are into it now (cost for the building) for about \$300,000. The majority of the cost is the furniture. He added that new lights were more than we planned on. We will next be putting in a camera system. The County Manager explained that the outside needs work with new siding and the parking lot needs replacing.

County Manager Zinser informed the Commissioners that the box truck is dead. We owned it and gave it away and received it back and we got it running so we didn't give it up. We will probably start looking for another box truck. Facilities Manager Rick deRochemont stated that they had to rent a U-Haul for this move.

b. Commissioners to review and possibly approve Usher Findings of Facts – Greg explains property out of Buxton.

Commissioner Andrews motioned to approve the Findings of Facts for the Usher property tax abatement denial appeal and to authorize County Manager Zinser to sign it. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.

Vote 5-0.

7 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)

None

8 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

Susan Wiswell asked how the County would fund the box truck? County Manager Zinser responded that the Sheriff's Office and EMA have vehicle reserves between \$300 and \$400,000 that we could draw on for that purchase as all departments have a need for this truck.

Janet Drew spoke via ZOOM and stated that York's budget person turned treasurer was interested in serving on the County Budget Committee. There may be budget people in different towns, but everyone is talking in their silos. She thanked everyone for their work.

9 ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.